

and helping them back to the fold. From working with young adults and raising money for college scholarships to comforting and sharing the wisdom of the elderly members of his congregation, Reverend Netters and his church are actively engaged in building a better Memphis.

The Mount Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood was founded in 1902, and Reverend Netters has been their pastor for the past 55 years, earning the distinction of being the longest serving pastor of a single church in Memphis. I wish Dr. Reverend James L. Netters, Sr. many more prosperous years with Mount Vernon Baptist Church, so that he can continue working tirelessly to lift up his congregation and our great city of Memphis.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3078, H.R. 3079,
AND H.R. 3080

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to all three trade agreements under consideration in the House this week. I believe these agreements will only exacerbate our unemployment crisis, undermine America's manufacturing sector, and allow the continued hemorrhage of our jobs to foreign countries.

I am a proponent of trade, but any agreement that reduces barriers and removes avenues to redress unfair practices should preserve American jobs, ensure a level playing field, respect the rights of worker's and our environment, and provide significant economic benefits. These proposed agreements, individually and collectively, do not live up to those standards.

Since 1977, the real median hourly wage has decreased \$.53 for workers in this country. In manufacturing, it has decreased \$1.40. In the same timeframe, the U.S. has lost approximately 7 million manufacturing jobs, over 250,000 in the state of Indiana alone. These are middle class jobs, and each lost job means lost wages, lost health care, and lost retirement benefits for a family. It is getting harder and harder for America's working class to make it, and that is a shame. With the unemployment rate at 9.1%, we must do everything possible to create new jobs, and protect every single American job that exists. Congress should have a singular focus of promoting American workers and creating American jobs.

Instead, Congress is going to pass three trade agreements that will cause a loss of jobs; necessitating the passage of a TAA package to train those whose jobs are being outsourced. What a terrible and wrongheaded policy. Further, the TAA package that Congress is considering would pare back the eligibility requirements and funding levels for displaced workers that were established in 2009. Are American workers less vulnerable to trade than in 2009? I find it ludicrous that we would choose to reduce this assistance when long term unemployment continues to plague millions of American families.

All three of these agreements are similar to NAFTA, and we know, all too well, the effects of NAFTA. In 1993, before the enactment of NAFTA, we had a small trade surplus of about

\$1.6 billion with Mexico. NAFTA was enacted in 1994 and by 1995 that surplus had turned into a deficit of almost \$16 billion. By 2007, this deficit had grown to a staggering \$75 billion. These policies have displaced millions of jobs, and we cannot afford to aggravate the problem with more misguided trade agreements. Further, the jobs that aren't displaced are diminished through depressed wages and benefits.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the South Korea agreement will expand the U.S. trade deficit by \$13.5 billion and eliminate 159,000 jobs within seven years. Proponents of this deal will cite estimates by the International Trade Commission indicating a small positive impact on our trade deficit and negligible domestic employment gains. However, I would point out that the ITC projected a \$1 billion increase in the trade deficit and a negligible effect on employment before China's ascension to the World Trade Organization. The results turned out to be dramatically different. Between 2001 and 2008 our trade deficit with China increased by \$185 billion and we have lost approximately 2.4 million jobs.

The manufacturing supported by the United States' automobile supply chain is the backbone of our economy. The provisions of this agreement allow duty free imports of vehicles with up to sixty-five percent of the content coming from outside South Korea. I fear that countries that have circumvented our trade laws in the past will use this as a new opportunity to increase the presence of unfairly subsidized products in U.S. markets by going through South Korea. The resulting job losses are as inevitable as they are unacceptable.

Finally, South Korea has a history of currency manipulation and erecting significant non-tariff import barriers. Are we foolish enough to believe they won't continue to aggressively protect their domestic industries at the expense of manufacturing jobs here in the U.S.?

Specific to the Colombia agreement, the Economic Policy Institute estimates that this deal would eliminate 55,000 American jobs within seven years, while growing our trade deficit by \$3.3 billion. Additionally, Colombia has a disturbing history of violence against labor unions. Nearly 2,680 unionists have been murdered there and only six percent of these crimes have been prosecuted. That is an appalling fact. The administration's Action Plan is a positive step, but it does not guarantee the basic rights of workers, nor their protection from retaliation. Further, the Action Plan is not part of the FTA, and is therefore subject to the discretion of the Executive Branch. I will not be satisfied until I see sustained long term progress for workers' rights in Colombia.

These trade agreements will come at the expense of the middle class at the worst possible time. They will do away with at least 214,000 American jobs and undermine key industries throughout our economy.

Trade can have positive benefits for the U.S. economy, but it has to be done right, and it has to be done fairly. These agreements do not reflect the lessons we have learned. Again and again, we have seen countries acting aggressively to support and promote their domestic job creating industries while protecting them from competition. Even when our companies have legal recourse, it is almost always too little too late, the damage has been done,

and the jobs are gone. That is why I am concerned about the failure of these agreements to have robust mechanisms to ensure that the provisions are enforced.

We should be using our time to pass legislation to rebuild America's economic infrastructure using American workers and goods and products made in the United States. I encourage my colleagues to oppose all three agreements.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National School Lunch Week and National Farm to School Month in support of our National School Lunch Programs and to express my concern regarding some of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule changes to the program. As the representative of the fifth district of Oregon, I am committed to improving the contribution of the school meal program to the nutritional needs of school children.

A recent Gallup poll found that 19 percent of American families are food insecure. According to a study by the USDA, nearly 17 million American children struggle with hunger. This same study concluded that 13.7 percent of households in my home state of Oregon suffered from food "insecurity" meaning they lacked consistent access to adequate amounts of nutritious food. That is over 500,000 Oregonians. One of our most important programs that is essential in helping hold the line on hunger and food insecurity is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. As of August 2011, over 780,000 people in Oregon depended on SNAP to help piece together their food budgets.

Over one-half of our students in Oregon, over 280,000, are eligible for free or reduced priced lunch. A decade ago that percentage was only one-third. For these students, the availability of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Afterschool Meal programs shield them from hunger and increase their family's food security. School meals are important to ensure all low-income students receive proper nutrition. Not only do school meals help reduce hunger, but they also increase the health of children and their ability to learn.

With this increased demand for free or reduced priced meals at school, we need to recognize the added burden this puts on already strained budgets. Changes to the school meal plans must consider the constraints faced by school lunch providers. School lunch providers need to offer nutritious affordable options that children will eat and that will encourage continued high rates of participation. For many children, the school meals are their prime source of nutrition for the day. Changes that discourage participation will reduce the overall health and wellness of American children.

While 2010 Dietary Guidelines recommends higher consumption of fruits and vegetables, the proposal would eliminate some of the most popular and economical vegetables available to schools. Contrary to recommendations made in the Guidelines, USDA would limit

servings of vegetables children actually like, including corn, green peas, potatoes and lima beans, to one cup per child per week, without providing any compelling reason for doing so. Vegetables in this subgroup provide excellent nutritional value. This limit would not improve nutrition intake, but would have an adverse affect on the affordability, participation rates and nutrition quality of school meals. In this time of economic uncertainty, we cannot overlook the unintended consequences of these new and conflicting standards.

The 2010 Guidelines list four “nutrients of concern”—potassium, dietary fiber, calcium, and vitamin D—adding that intake of these nutrients is “low enough to be of public health concern” in both children and adults. Potatoes, for example, have more potassium than bananas, a food commonly associated with this nutrient. Lima beans contain 21 percent of the DV of fiber and 12 percent of the DV for potassium. Green peas are rich in iron and vitamins A, B6, and C. By limiting the serving of these vegetables, USDA’s proposal runs contrary to the Guidelines.

Furthermore, this rule would have a negative impact on the businesses all across the country, including the many food producers that I represent in the 5th District of Oregon. For example, NORPAC Foods, Inc., headquartered in Stayton, Oregon, is a 240 farmer-member cooperative, farming 45,000 acres and, with its associate farmers and processors, producing over 600,000,000 pounds annually. Providing schools with nutrient rich vegetables, including lima beans and green peas, is an important part of NORPAC’s business. At this time of economic downturn, USDA should not impose rules that close markets for American farmers without strong nutritional justification.

In conclusion, as we recognize National School Lunch Week and the positive impact this program has on the children in our nation, I would encourage the USDA to revisit its proposal and write a rule that does not put limitations on school nutritionists’ choices in how to best feed hungry children or put further economic pressures on schools or the food companies that supply our schools.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH COARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable constituent.

Ms. Elizabeth Coards is an extraordinary centenarian who resides in the Villas at Horizon Village, and serves as matriarch to a wonderful neighborhood in North Charleston, South Carolina, which was created through the Hope VI program.

Ms. Coards was born in Summerville, South Carolina, on August 17, 1909. Her parents were Benjamin Bracey, a brick maker, and Mattie Jones, a domestic worker. She attended Alston High School in Summerville, South Carolina.

Following school, she went to work for a cigar factory in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Coards remembers that she was at the factory stripping tobacco when she heard about President Roosevelt signing Social Se-

curity into law in 1935. Soon after, she went looking for better opportunities in New York City. There she found work as a laundress and later as a nanny, staying with one family for 27 years. In 1980, Ms. Coards moved to Staunton, Virginia. She returned South Carolina and settled into North Charleston at the age of 101.

Ms. Coards’ first love is baseball. One of her fondest memories is taking the 5-cents subway ride to Brooklyn, where she saw Jackie Robinson hit his first home run for the Dodgers in 1947. Ms. Coards had a brief marriage in 1929, and had a son Harvey, who passed away in 1975. She is currently a member of Faith Temple Church in Harleyville, SC, and a beloved resident of her new home at the Villas at Horizon Village.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contributions of Ms. Elizabeth Coards to the rich fabric of our country. She serves as an example of the wonderful centenarians that worked hard all their lives, raised families and participated in their communities. America is a remarkable country because of the contributions of productive citizens like Ms. Coards. It was my honor to meet her at the recent dedication of the Villas at Horizon Village, and I wish her much happiness and continued good health.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALTER
COWART OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of the 7th District of Missouri’s most distinguished individuals, Walter Cowart.

Walter, a resident of Springfield, Missouri, retired this summer after working in the United States Small Business Administration, SBA, for over 35 years.

Walter got off to a great start in college. There, he majored in economics at Sewanee, the University of the South, in Sewanee, Tennessee, as part of the class of 1964.

Cowart’s career with SBA started in Lubbock, TX in 1976. In 1979, he moved to the Kansas City, Missouri office as the Chief of Portfolio Management. He then transferred to Springfield, Missouri when the Branch Office opened there in 1981. He was recognized as the Region VII Regional Employee of the Year in 1997 and was presented his award by former Congressman Roy Blunt at the Springfield Branch Office. He was appointed Branch Manager in 2008.

As Branch Manager, Walter was an advocate for small business in the 28 counties served by the Springfield Branch of the Kansas City District. He oversaw efforts to expand and develop the small business community in southwest Missouri with the help of SBA lending partners.

Walter was also a member of the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission from March 1984 until January 1991 and was a member of the Board of the Springfield Public Building Corporation from May 1991 until January 2002.

Walter has been married to his wife Laura for over 38 years. They both retired at the end

of August; Walter from the SBA and Laura from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Walter and Laura like to spend their free time with their family. They are blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Walter and Laura are spending their retirement with their family, friends, and are currently cruising across the rivers of Europe.

Although I am sad to see him go, I wish Walter a happy retirement. The SBA was fortunate to call him an employee, those of us who live in Springfield are proud to call him a neighbor, but most importantly, I am lucky to call him a friend. I hope Walter and Laura enjoy their retirement and wish them and their family the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11th I was unavoidably detained and therefore was not present to be recorded on rollcall vote No. 771. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 771, I would have voted “nay” (October 11)

H. Res. 425—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3078—United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3079—United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3080—United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, and the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2832—To extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension)

RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS OF WATER CONSERVATION IN EL PASO

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th anniversary of Water Conservation Day in El Paso. I also want to honor the truly remarkable turnaround El Paso has achieved in reducing water use and preventing the depletion of the Hueco Bolson aquifer.

In 1991, with one of El Paso’s main water sources predicted to run dry within 36 years, the goal was to reduce the 200 gallons used by each person everyday by 20 percent. Today, average usage stands at 133 gallons per person, and, despite a population increase of 200,000 people since 1991, El Paso uses 1.6 percent less than 20 years ago.

El Paso’s Water Conservation Ordinance has provided guidelines and schedules for water usage for two decades, and resulted in over 231 billion gallons of water saved from waste and has also halted the over-drafting of fresh water from the Hueco Bolson aquifer, the main water source for the city.

El Paso’s initiative succeeded for several reasons. The Water Conservation Department